

ROUTING AND TRANSMITTAL SLIP		Date
		20 JUN 1985
TO: (Name, office symbol, room number, building, Agency/Post)		Initials Date
1. EO/DDA		SM 6/20/85
2. ADDA		20 JUN 1985
3. DDA		21 JUN 1985
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Action	File	Note and Return
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Coordination	Justify	
REMARKS		

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**EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT**  
**ROUTING SLIP**

TO:

		ACTION	INFO	DATE	INITIAL
1	DCI		X		
2	DDCI		X		
3	EXDIR		X		
4	D/ICS		X		
5	DDI		X		
6	DDA		X		
7	DDO		X		
8	DDS&T		X		
9	Chm/NIC				
10	GC		X		
11	IG		X		
12	Compt		X		
13	D/OLL		X		
14	D/PAO		X		
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SUSPENSE

Date

Remarks

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20 Jun 85

Date

SYSTEM II  
90513

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Executive Registry	
85-	2464

June 18, 1985

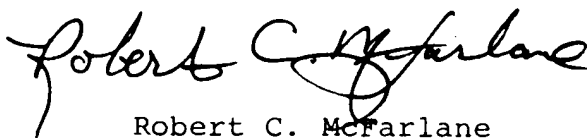
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MEMORANDUM FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT  
THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE  
THE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND  
BUDGET  
THE CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

SUBJECT: Establishment of a Blue Ribbon Commission on  
Defense Management

The President has approved the attached National Security Decision Directive to establish a Blue Ribbon Commission on Defense Management. While this NSDD is unclassified, it is not authorized for public release without NSC concurrence. An Executive Order implementing this Directive, including a description of the Commission's charter, will be available for public dissemination.

  
Robert C. McFarlane

Attachment: NSDD 175

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System II  
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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 17, 1985

*National Security Decision  
Directive Number 175*

ESTABLISHMENT OF A BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION  
ON NATIONAL DEFENSE

During the last four years we have made great progress in rebuilding our national defense and in confronting the many challenges involved with efficient defense management. It reflects highly upon our civilian defense leadership, our men and women in uniform, and on the American people that we have not turned away from our vital responsibilities in this area. We have much to be proud of.

Now the time has come to not only reflect on past accomplishments, but also to prepare for the future. Particularly in the context of the resource constrained environment we face, we must do all we can to consolidate our gains, sustain our efforts to reinvigorate the defense program, and most importantly, develop a clear and progressive agenda for the effective management of defense resources through the next four years.

In consultation with Members of Congress and pursuant to the advice of the Secretary of Defense, I have determined that there should be established a Blue Ribbon Commission on National Defense. The purpose of this Commission is to review and analyze the progress already made towards improving the management, organization, acquisition, and decision-making procedures of the Department of Defense, and to propose such further changes as may be appropriate to enhance the ability of the Department of Defense to effectively accomplish its various missions in peace and in war.

The charter of the Commission shall include evaluation of current procedures for establishing military requirements; developing plans and programs; resource allocation; program execution; and the budget process, including legislative oversight. In the course of this evaluation the Commission shall review organizational arrangements, both formal and informal, among the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Unified and Specified Command System, the Military Departments, and the Congress.

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2. To review the adequacy of the current authority and control of the Secretary of Defense in the oversight of the Military Departments, and the efficiency of the decision-making apparatus of the Office of the Secretary of Defense.
3. To review the responsibilities of the Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in providing for joint military advice and force development within a resource-constrained environment.
4. To review the adequacy of the Unified and Specified Command system in providing for the effective planning for and use of military forces.
5. To consider the value and continued role of intervening layers of command on the direction and control of military forces in peace and in war.
6. To review the procedures for developing and fielding military systems incorporating new technologies in a timely fashion.
7. To study and make recommendations regarding Congressional oversight and investigative procedures relating to the Department of Defense.
8. To recommend proposals to improve the effectiveness and stability of resource allocation for defense, including the legislative process.

In formulating its recommendations to the President, the Commission should consider the appropriate means for implementing its recommendations. The Commission should first devote its attention to the procedures and activities of the Department associated with the procurement of military equipment and materiel. It should report its conclusions and recommendations on the Procurement section of this study by December 31, 1985. The final report encompassing the balance of those issues highlighted above should be submitted no later than June 30, 1986, with an interim report to be submitted not later than March 31, 1986.

The Commission will be bipartisan in nature and should consist mainly but not exclusively of people with extensive experience and national reputations in commerce and industry, as well as people with broad experience in government and national defense. The Department of Defense will be responsible for administrative support to the Commission.

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The Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, should prepare an Executive Order implementing this directive, and a list of recommended Commissioners. The Commission should be in place and operating as soon as possible. Shortly thereafter, the Commission should brief the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs and the Secretary of Defense on the Commission's plan of action.

Ronald Reagan

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